

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-30 remain in the application. Claim 2 has been canceled.

First, Applicant elected Species A in the reply filed on November 1, 2004. As a result, claims 8-26 were withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a nonelected species and there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Substantively, claims 1 and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Patel et al. However, the Examiner has indicated that claims 2-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 2. Claims 3 and 14 have been amended to properly depend from claim 1 as claim 2 has now been canceled.

Therefore, Applicant submits that amended claim 1 is clearly in condition for allowance and all of the remaining claims 3-30 are also in condition for allowance as claim 1 is now an allowable generic or linking claim for the remaining claims 3-30 and various species of the invention.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for immediate allowance, which is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

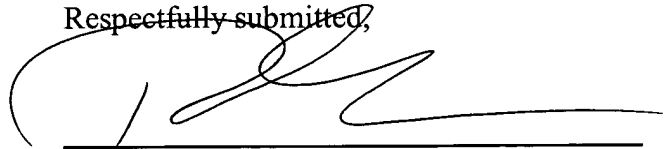
Appl'n No: 10/688,161

Amd't dated February 17, 2005

Reply to Office action dated November 17, 2004

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment of the above fees associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-1759. A duplicate copy of this form is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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